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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY China

DATE DISTR. 21 APR 53

SUBJECT Medical Training at Aurora University/Research
Facilities

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1. The quality of instruction in the medical school of Aurora University, Shanghai, and the research facilities offered to medical students are of very high standards, although generally not much is known in the US about Aurora University.
2. The reason for this is that Aurora University was founded by a French provincial order of Jesuits and all instruction and textbooks are in French. As a consequence, most Chinese students who took post-graduate work after receiving their medical degrees from Aurora University went to Belgium or France rather than the US or the UK because of their fluency in French and lack of command of English.
3. There were about 25 students in class and the university accepted about 50 medical students per year.
4. While there was a minimum of two years study required for pre-medical students, if a four year pre-med course were taken, the student received a bachelor of science degree.
5. After four years additional study, the medical student received his M D degree. He then usually took a year's internship, but it was permissible to go into private practice without any internship.
6. Aurora University had an excellent curriculum and a number of features of training were advanced, even as far as US standards are concerned. For example, in the US in most medical schools the students receive no clinical experience until their fourth year. However, at Aurora University the students began going to a hospital for clinical experience in their first year. They would spend several hours at a hospital twice per week during the first year, three times a week in the second year, and during the third and fourth years the students spent every morning at the hospital and had lectures in the afternoon.
7. Incidentally, Aurora University granted degrees in engineering and law as well as in medicine.

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8. The staff of Aurora University was excellent. It consisted of about 50% French nationals and 50% Chinese nationals who had received medical training both in France and locally. The school had a total of about 150 instructors, including those on a part-time basis.
9. The staff was paid partially by the Jesuits and partially by the French government out of Boxer War Indemnities. This financial assistance, of course, contributed greatly to the substantial size of the staff and the quality of the instructors.
10. Medical students at Aurora University also had many advantages as far as available research facilities were concerned. For example, the Pasteur Institute of Shanghai, one of the leading research institutions of the world, was also used by Aurora University. A medical student from Aurora University spent six months at Pasteur Institute during the course of his training.
11. This Institute could match the best in the world as far as equipment was concerned prior to World War II. Most of the equipment came from France, although the best microscopes came from Germany.
12. The Institute had a research staff of over 50, many of whom worked in the field rather than in Shanghai itself. It specialized in such research as bacteriology and parasitology. The top men of Pasteur Institute were all French nationals and they have since returned to France.
13. The Japanese took most of the equipment of Pasteur Institute in 1945. There was no Chinese-made equipment to replace the stolen equipment. 50X1-HUM
14. Medical students were also permitted to use the facilities of an excellent mental institution in Shanghai which was operated by German nuns. [redacted] it was one of the largest in China and had at least one thousand beds. Aurora University medical students spent three to six months in training at this mental institution as about 800 beds were made available to the University for studies. 50X1-HUM
15. Also affiliated with Aurora University was the Sacred Heart Hospital, an excellent and beautifully equipped hospital of about 200 beds. However, this hospital was destroyed during the war.
16. The Jesuit Order also operated an excellent museum which was one of the best of its kind in China and provided excellent facilities for the study of biology, zoology, etc.
17. The X-ray Department of Aurora University was affiliated with the Sino-Belgium Radium Institute which provided outstanding facilities for study and training in this field. This Institute was established and maintained with Boxer War Indemnities and had at least US\$2 million investment in the latest type of equipment.
18. Director of the Sino-Belgium Radium Institute was a Dr Mark Fou, who was a former student at Aurora University. He received post-graduate training at the University of Louvain and the University of Pennsylvania. [redacted] Dr Fou may still be in China as he returned to the country in 1946 after additional post-graduate work at the University of Pennsylvania. 50X1-HUM
19. Dr Fou's right-hand man at the Institute was Dr George Wu, likewise an Aurora University graduate who took post-graduate work in London.

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20. The Sino-Belgium Radium Institute was mostly interested in cancer and accepted no patients other than those requiring treatment with radium. The Institute had no more than 50 beds, but it had the very latest type of very powerful X-ray units. The Institute trained X-ray technicians. Many of the nurses had received their training at Sacred Heart Hospital.
21. While the facilities made available to medical students at Aurora University were probably as good as any other institution's in China, if not superior in quality, Chinese medical research in general does not amount to much. This is primarily because of lack of doctors. Development of research has been almost negligible and has lagged far behind medical research of other countries.
22. For example, medical research in China is still concentrated mainly in public health problems overcome years ago in the US. In China great emphasis is being placed on such things as tuberculosis, dysentery, malaria, and typhoid fever.
23. As far as financial support of medical research in China was concerned, as explained a good part of x-ray research was supported by Boxer funds as was some of the research in bacteriology and parasitology at the Pasteur Institute. One of the most outstanding medical research institutions was Peking Medical Union College, supported by Rockefeller Foundation funds.
24. Most financial support came from foreign funds, although the national government of China did support some medical research at the Sun Yat Sen University in Canton, Central University, and Chinese National University in Nanking.
25. It could be generalized that most medical research was centered in Shanghai, Nanking, and Peking.
26. As far as the Chinese medical research scientists are concerned, there were a few good men who had received training in Europe or the US. However, even in spite of their excellent training they were not able to accomplish much because they were handicapped by lack of equipment.

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1. Chinese medical research and development is in a rather backward state and is concentrated primarily in the field of public health. Even in this field the war seriously affected the quality and extent of research. However, most research was focused on infectious diseases, such as cholera, intestinal disorders, and parasitic diseases.
2. In spite of the great need for doctors it was exceptionally hard to get into medical school, just about as difficult as it is in the US. [redacted] in Cheeloc University Medical School [redacted] class contained about one hundred students. This was less than half of the number of applicants all of whom had successfully passed very stringent examinations.
3. Cheeloc University at one time had been one of the largest universities in North China. It included colleges of arts, science, home economics, business, and agriculture, as well as the medical school.
4. [redacted] Of the 30 medical students who finally graduated [redacted] 10 were girls. [redacted] primary training was in public health work for villages. [redacted] Canton Hospital in Canton [redacted] had four hundred beds and very modern equipment.
5. Incidentally, Canton Hospital was also affiliated with Ling-nan Medical College of Canton, and medical and chemical students received part of their training at the Canton Hospital.
6. Canton Hospital was primarily a general medical hospital. It had good X-ray equipment and operating room equipment [redacted] Only a few simple instruments were made in China.
7. As part of [redacted] medical training, [redacted] sent [redacted] into remote areas during the summer to get actual on-the-ground training in public health. [redacted] assigned to health centers in small communities which reported to a medical center in the state capitals.
8. The health centers in the small communities were merely small dispensaries. A public health nurse was in charge. Two or three good-sized districts had to share one doctor.

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9. Cheeloo University maintained a good-sized medical center in Tainan prior to moving and established an excellent medical center in Chengtu after being relocated. The training in the Cheeloo Medical School was patterned after US medical curriculum. A medical degree was granted after seven years training, including pre-med, and one year internship.

10. The British type of training offered by some other schools did not take as long and students who took this type received a degree of MBBS which is equivalent to a medical bachelor of science degree.

11. [redacted] good supply of penicillin, some of which was of Chinese origin. However, the locally made penicillin was much more expensive than US penicillin. [redacted]

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12. [redacted] plenty of sulpha drugs of local origin. [redacted] no streptomycin or other such antibiotics in 1949. [redacted]

13. [redacted] plenty of ethyl chloride, used as local anesthetic [redacted]

14. Prior to World War II most of the pharmaceuticals used in China were of German origin but after the war everything came from the US. [redacted] never [redacted] any Soviet pharmaceuticals or drugs even in North China.

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15. As far as medical personalities are concerned, [redacted] teachers are still in China as few doctors were able to get out.

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